Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

**Racial Discrimination: Education**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [193545] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department takes to monitor the content of (a) training and (b) lessons on critical race theory provided by (i) FLAIR and (ii) other third party organisations.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [193546] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment of the implications for her policies of the number of external providers teaching critical race theory in schools.

**Nick Gibb:** Political issues relating to racial and social justice can be taught in a balanced and factual manner, just as pupils are often taught a range of different views on other topics, but schools should not teach contested theories and opinions as fact.

The Department is aware that there has been increasing focus on political impartiality in schools over the last few years. This has been challenging for head teachers, teachers and staff, given a lack of clarity regarding what the legal duties in this area really mean. That is why the Department has published clear and comprehensive guidance to help those working with and in schools to better understand legal duties on political impartiality. A link to the guidance can be found here:


As with other aspects of the curriculum, schools have flexibility over how they deliver these subjects. It is important that schools take full responsibility for ensuring lessons and materials are age appropriate, suitable, and politically impartial, particularly when using materials produced by external organisations. When teaching, schools should consider the age of pupils and their religious and cultural backgrounds.

Schools are ultimately responsible for making sure the resources they use are
suitable for their pupils. The Department’s guidance includes advice to help schools make good choices.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-12/193545
and
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-12/193546

House of Lords Written Answers

Visas: Ministers of Religion

Lord Godson (Conservative) [HL8823] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Bleadworth on 6 March (HL6140), whether they intend to conduct a review into UK visas given to Religious Workers or Ministers of Religion from Iran; and if so, what is the timetable for doing so.

Lord Murray of Bleadworth: The Home Office is fully aware of the risks associated with this route.

The Home Office regularly reviews the criteria used to identify persons who may pose a higher risk to the UK, with scrutiny given to each application the Home Office receives and additional interventions taken where required. For national security reasons, it would not be appropriate to disclose these criteria, nor the timing of when these reviews take place.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/hl8823

The answer referred to above can be read at
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-06/hl6140

Religion: Education

Lord Carrington (Crossbench) [HL9104] To ask His Majesty's Government why Religious Education is not included in the list of subjects for English Baccalaureate qualification.

Baroness Barran: The government’s ambition is for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) to be at the heart of each secondary school’s broader curriculum. The EBacc subjects are those considered to provide a sound basis for many degrees and a variety of careers beyond the age of 16. The EBacc was deliberately designed to be limited in size so that pupils could study other subjects, such as Religious Studies, alongside it. There are no plans to amend the composition of the EBacc.

The government recognises the importance of religious education (RE), both to pupils’ wider knowledge and to society. RE offers pupils the opportunity to engage with real world issues and to develop their understanding and appreciation of the beliefs and views of others. For this reason, the teaching of RE remains compulsory throughout a pupil's schooling.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/hl9104

TOP

Holocaust

House of Commons Debate

Sir David Amess Summer Adjournment

col 1051 Bob Blackman (Conservative): … One of the areas I have been particularly
active on in this Parliament has been the holocaust memorial and learning centre. I am pleased that the Holocaust Memorial Bill has passed on Second Reading and now goes on to the Select Committee stage. I am grateful to the Whips for appointing me to the Committee to examine this ... This will act as a memorial to commemorate the men, women and children who were lost during the war. It will also be an education and learning centre, with an accurate account of this slice of history, with testimonies from British perspectives. ...

https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-20/debates/E5EE933B-210D-404A-ABAB-4ACB1FAA1FFE/SirDavidAmessSummerAdjournment#contribution-28ECB0FF-AB8F-4417-8102-7EFADDE1B2D9

House of Commons Oral Answer

Business of the House

col 1016 Peter Bottomley (Conservative) Yesterday, thanks to my right hon. Friend and Team Lewis, I was able to meet Les Wateridge, who, as many will know, spent decades keeping the streets of Westminster clear, especially around Victoria Tower Gardens. The day before, Anita Lasker-Wallfisch came to Parliament. She is 98. She was in the women’s orchestra at Auschwitz, and then survived Bergen-Belsen. May I invite the Government, the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the leaders of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation to meet Anita, and hear her views on why the proposed memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens is too large for the gardens, and too small to be a proper memorial to those who died while she was incarcerated?

Penny Mordaunt: I know that my hon. Friend cares very deeply about this issue and the memorial, as do all Members of the House, despite their different views. As we are going into recess, there will not be an opportunity for him to question either the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on this matter, so I shall make sure that they hear of his invitation, and I shall write to them on his behalf.

https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-20/debates/37B48074-3C71-4071-9131-FADA2DF34BA7/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-99DB6E66-457D-4C72-B6BA-C8348ACEE0C1

House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service: Tree Felling

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL9364] To ask His Majesty's Government how many existing large trees would have to be felled to make way for the proposed Holocaust Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens.

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL9365] To ask His Majesty's Government how tall the proposed structure for the Holocaust Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens will be; and whether it will exceed the height of the existing Buxton Memorial.

Baroness Scott of Bybrook: Page 66 of the Design and Access Statement Part 1, which was submitted to the public inquiry and is available on the Westminster City Council website, shows that the memorial will be 10 metres high; and lower than the Buxton Memorial, which is 13.5 metres high, westminster.gov.uk. No existing large trees will have to be felled to make way for the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-14/hl9364 and
UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [1527] Holocaust Memorial and Victoria Tower Gardens – That this House notes that the Government said in proposals in September 2018 that the Holocaust Memorial would take up 15 per cent of the area of Victoria Tower Gardens and that that percentage was later reduced to 7 per cent; questions whether one calculation was of the green space and the other related to the whole park; and asks the Government to ask the President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors to make sensible, reliable, consistent calculations, including an estimate of how much of the gardens would be blocked off for what period if present proposals are not changed.

https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/61265

Israel

House of Commons Debate

Sir David Amess Summer Adjournment

col 1051 Bob Blackman (Conservative): … In my position as chairman of the all-party parliamentary group on Israel, I am concerned that there has been a lot of false and misleading propaganda, both in Parliament and online, regarding the recent counter-terrorism operation in the Jenin camp. We should be clear that the Jenin camp is being used as a base for terrorist organisations and used to orchestrate attacks against innocent civilians. The Israel Defence Forces have acted on precise intelligence information and directly targeted terrorist organisations. Indeed, during the operation several hundred improvised explosive devices and thousands of grenades were discovered, and even holy sites such as the al-Nasr mosque have been found with piles of ammunition and explosive devices. The IDF neutralised 11 concealed IEDs in densely populated areas, clearly highlighting the extraordinary terrorist activities in the area, and I am sure that the Israeli security forces will continue to combat the threat of terrorism. …

https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-20/debates/E5EE933B-210D-404A-ABAB-4ACB1FAA1FFE/SirDavidAmessSummerAdjournment#contribution-28ECB0FF-AB8F-4417-8102-7EFADDE1B2D9

Foreign Affairs

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

UK statement on Qur'an burning in Stockholm

A Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office spokesperson said: The burning and desecration of the Qur’an in Stockholm is deeply insulting to Muslims around the world and completely inappropriate. We denounce hatred on the basis of religion or belief. We will defend freedom of religion or belief for all, and promote mutual respect. We recognise the deep suffering experienced by Muslims around the world caused by the burning of the Qur’an.
Relevant Legislation  ** new or updated today

**UK Parliament**

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3475

Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186

Holocaust Memorial Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3421

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325

Online Safety Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137

Nakba Commemoration Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3461

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188

Same Sex Marriage (Church of England)
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3438

Schools Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163

Universal Jurisdiction (Extension)
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3454
Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

Consultations  ** new or updated today

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill (closing date not specified – no later than 14 September 2023 but may be earlier)

A Human Rights Bill for Scotland (closing date 5 October 2023)

The future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales (closing date 26 October 2023)
https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/ons/futureofpopulationandmigrationstatistics/

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438